

## NOTE ON THE BEHAVIOR OF LEPTOGLOSSUS OPPOSITUS SAY.

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During the autumn of 1919 opportunity was offered for study of this species, which is known as the northern leaf-footed plant-bug. The third week of September nymphs were vigorously attacking growing corn stalks at Arlington, Va. All stages of nymphs and adults were also on large cheese squash. Injury probably would have been accomplished but for the fact that the fruit was practically killed by the pickle worm (*Diaphania nitidalis* Cram.) and attack was further complicated by the common squash bug (*Anasa tristis* DeG.).

September 23 the writer observed an adult and a last-stage nymph on a fruit tree growing on the Department of Agriculture grounds. Search was made during a cool spell following a storm with the result that large numbers of the insect were located on a nearby catalpa tree. This plant-bug, while eminently gregarious, had congregated in unusually close clusters on the lower surface of the leaves, different stages being represented in a cluster, some containing from two to 30 individual bugs. All stages were present, adults more abundant. The known fondness of this species for fruits was exemplified in its occurrence on catalpa pods on which the bugs could easily be seen hanging and silhouetted against the sky. A number placed in a large jar overnight massed themselves in two groups, one of which was strung along a pod. In the early morning at a temperature of 58° F. the insects were still seen in these locations on the tree, and in some cases, crawling slowly.

When disturbed, nymphs and adults, being flattened and light in weight and presenting considerable surface, are readily wafted by the wind. The majority of the bugs observed on trees were resting at a height of from 8 to 12 feet above ground, comparatively few being noticed either much higher or much lower in ordinary weather, but in the cool weather of late September and October they sometimes rest lower on the trees. Subsequently this species was found on catalpa at Arlington, Va., under similar conditions and temperature, but only in sunny places. When disturbed, they flew down to the grass reluctantly, and did not rise.

Since this species has previously been recorded by the writer to occur in the vicinity of the District of Columbia in July and

the first stages of the nymph were noticed as late as the last week in September, it is probable that the individuals under observation in September and October represented the second generation. Adults were still abroad the third week of October, and on the 15th were observed on catalpa trees not previously infested. An adult was seen flying during the heat of the day at a temperature of 80° F. It flew strongly and rapidly, gradually going higher until lost to view. These plant-bugs are so sluggish as to be as easy of capture as squash bugs and related genera and are seldom seen flying except in extremely warm weather in direct sunlight. It seems probable that the adults observed October 15 were seeking places for hibernation since afterward few specimens are seen. During the following year not a single individual came under observation, although frequent search was instituted for them, but in early October, 1921, the species returned to Arlington, Va., in small numbers.

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#### **Occurrence of *Meligethes aeneus* Fab. in the United States.**

This nitidulid beetle has been collected on the flowers of *Ranunculus* and willow, and recently specimens have been seen from Bozeman, Mont., Utah, and Nevada. It has also been recorded from California and Indiana. Abroad, Taschenberg reports this species attacks mustard, and Ormerod calls it the turnip blossom beetle, stating that it injures opening buds and blossoms. While it evidently breeds on wild crucifers, no record is available of attack to cultivated Cruciferae in the United States. It is obviously not circumpolar, but an introduced species.—F. H. CHITTENDEN, Washington, D. C.